

REMARKS

Claim 10 has been amended. Claims 10 - 18 are currently pending in the present application.

In the Office Action, Claim 10 is rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Burnett U.S. Patent No. 6,295,004. Also, in the Office Action, claims 11 - 14 are objected to but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Additionally, in the Office Action, claims 15 – 18 are indicated as allowed.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claim 10 over Burnett U.S. Patent No. 6,295,004 for the reason that Burnett U.S. Patent No. 6,295,004 does not teach or suggest the claimed features.

Independent claim 10 of the present application as currently amended recites a dishwashing machine having a door pivotable around the horizontal axis thereof, a switch arranged on the door, the switch being operable to generate an electric signal when a predetermined pivoting angle of the door is reached as the door is being opened; and a light source that illuminates the interior of the dishwashing machine. The light source is disposed in the interior of the dishwashing machine and not disposed on the door and is operably connected to the switch such that the light source is activated into an illuminated condition in response to the receipt of the electrical signal from the switch.

Burnett US Patent No. 6,295,004 discloses an LED that emits a stream of light upwardly from each distal corner of the open front door (see column 3, lines 47 to 50 and Fig. 1). The LED of Burnett US Patent No. 6,295,004 is not disposed in the interior of the dishwasher but on the door (see Fig. 1). Burnett U.S. Patent No. 6,295,004 is directed to reducing accidental injuries by providing signal lights on the door that indicate that the door is in a lowered condition that could be in the pathway of a person in the vicinity of the dishwasher.

The LED of Burnett US Patent No. 6,295,004 is not disposed in the interior of the dishwasher and does not provide any more than slight incidental illumination of the interior of the dishwasher. However, as recited in independent claim 10 of the present application, the present invention is directed to a

dishwashing machine that includes a light source disposed in the interior of the dishwashing machine and not disposed on the door and which is activated into an illuminated condition to illuminate the interior of the dishwashing machine. The LED of Burnett US Patent No. 6,295,004 cannot be regarded as the functional equivalent of the light source of the present invention. It is respectfully submitted that Burnett US Patent No. 6,295,004 does not teach or disclose an arrangement such as that of the dishwashing machine of the present invention.

For these and other reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Burnett US Patent No. 6,295,004 does not teach or suggest the subject matter defined by independent Claim 10 and favorable reconsideration of this claim is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of claim 10 is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned. If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Respectfully submitted,



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